

# Record

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MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## Coast ministers, families enjoy break

MADISON, Ms. (Special and local reports) — The southeastern United States is into hurricane season again, but much of the Mississippi Gulf Coast is still trapped in last year's season. Even though the wind and rain are gone, Katrina is a still a stressful presence with which to be reckoned for Mississippi Baptist ministers and their families along the Coast.

Those ministers and their families affected by the monster storm got a break from the clean up, construction, ministry, and fatigue on Sept. 1-3, at a Labor Day weekend retreat in Madison sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. Broadmoor Church in Madison hosted and supported the event.

The event was given to the families cost-free as a way of saying, "We know you need a break and we want to offer that to you. Let us take care of you for a few days," said Steve Stone, MBCB associate executive director for church growth.

Weekend activities included a family-oriented dinner theater at Broadmoor Church on the evening of September 1 featuring Mayberry Ministries; conferencing and personalized counseling opportunities at Broadmoor during the day on September 2; and tickets to the M-Braves baseball game that evening at Trustmark Park in Pearl. Weekend hotel accommodations were also free to the families.

Jim Futral, MBCB executive director, welcomed the 60 families (170 people) to the retreat. Futral said even though a year has gone by since Katrina, the storm is still a reality for those on the Gulf Coast. "It just keeps on going," he said. "You've heard that you take two steps forward and one step back? Well, with us it's been more like two steps forward and a step and a half back. Progress is slow."

Barney Self, LeaderCare counselor in LifeWay's pastoral ministries area, encouraged the group, calling the weekend a "Katrina celebration of recovery."

"I love how this shared tragedy of Katrina is like the story of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus," Self said. "They were sad and Jesus wept. That's so powerful. He wept with them; He sobbed with them. Even though God knows it's going to be OK, He still joins with us in our hurt and pain. That hasn't changed, and it is going to be



HOLIDAY WEEKEND — Kevin Clifton (back, center), pastor of Bay Vista Church, Biloxi, and his family attended the September 1-3 Labor Day weekend getaway for Gulf Coast ministers and their families at Broadmoor Church, Madison. Joining Clifton for the weekend were wife Julie (back, left) and children (front, from left) Calan, Gunter, Christian, Stefani, and Cheyenne. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

OK not because of what the state convention will do (and) not because of what LifeWay will do. It's going to be OK because of what God will do for you.

"How do I know you're going to be OK? Because you're here. You're in this room. You know you need a break. You have rested, relaxed, and played. You needed that desperately!"

Joe Williams, an FBI chaplain since 1991, has been working on contract with the North American Mission Board for the past 16 months — the last 12 of which he has spent working in Mississippi and assisting people impacted by Katrina.

Williams said ministry fatigue is a fact. He defined ministry fatigue as what occurs when the care providers absorb the grief and emotional stress of those they relate to and become exhausted and overwhelmed.

"The idea of ministry fatigue is very closely associated with the term 'burnout,'" Williams said. "Ministry fatigue is a form of burnout, but is more focused on the results of overload of providing care to others. Ministry fatigue results from absorbing and the transference of grief, sorrow, depression, and distress from those to whom we provide ministry."

Using a sponge and a bowl of water as visual aids, Williams told the ministers, "You are the sponge."

He dipped the sponge into the water, a little at a time, until finally the sponge was saturated and began to drip. "Those drips are anger and frustration," he said, "and you know who you drip on — not the people you're helping. No, you drip on your family. About every two weeks, you need to have your sponge wrung out. You can do that by taking time to talk to someone, spending time with your wife and family, and just taking a break."

Williams said people often ask him when things will get back to normal. He said when he is asked that question, he remembers what a pastor's wife once told him: "Normal is just a setting on a clothes dryer!"

"That's true," he said. "Normal will never be the same again. You now have a new normal."

Kevin Clifton, pastor of Bay Vista Church, Biloxi, attended the weekend with his wife Julie and their six children: Calan, Christian, Stefani, Gunter, Cheyenne, and Kevin III. Like virtually all Mississippi Baptist churches along the Coast, Bay Vista Church has been deeply involved in responding to the needs of Katrina victims throughout the past year.

"The whole weekend was very well organized. You could sense that everyone went all out to see that the pastors and

our families were ministered to," Kevin Clifton said. "A lot of times we read in the Bible how 'one refreshes another,' and that's what the weekend was for us. It was a great time for my family — a class act of ministry for all involved."

"More than anything else, to be 'loved on' was so important. That personal touch was very meaningful. To get a hug, a handshake, to be able to look in someone's eyes and know they cared was so affirming. The convention board, Broadmoor, and LifeWay really reached out to us."

"It was all sort of overwhelming. Every time you turned around, there was something else for us."

Grady Ross is pastor of West Gulfport Church. He and his wife Veronica and their three boys came to the conference for time away from the relentless struggle of working on their church and ministering to people still in need.

"We're close to the beach; not right on it, but just across Highway 10. The storm surge didn't get the church, but the wind blew off the shingles and part of the roof, so we were ruined by water damage. Everything was soaked. We've repaired a lot of the church, but there is still a lot to do."

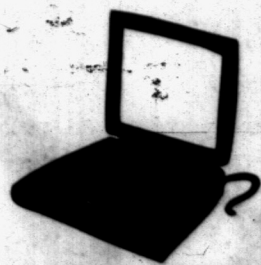
Ross said the help he has received from other churches across the country has been a true blessing. "We've had churches from California, Colorado, Kentucky, and Alabama come to work with us and send us monthly offerings. Three churches adopted us to receive their VBS offering this year. It's been incredible — so much generosity."

West Gulfport Church is a ministry point for a lot of the people in the area. They distribute food clothes and furniture, as well as offering counseling to those who need it.

Ross is making a healthy recovery by focusing on a positive ministry, as is one of his church members. "Miss Sadie is 81 and helps with all the distribution," Ross said, "and let me tell you, she keeps up with me! Once, when we'd been working real hard, I decided to let her take some time off, and she let me know she didn't need it."

Veronica Ross called the weekend "a real gift" to her family. "We've all worked non-stop since Katrina. The older boys have really had fun getting away. It's been good for all of us. We needed this."





## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# Our Mississippi legacy

*"Prayer was led by Miss Lackey."*

**T**hus reads the first mention of Margaret McRae Lackey in the annals of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

How eminently appropriate. The mother of Mississippi Baptists' season of prayer for state missions, who served as state WMU corresponding secretary from 1912-1930, had a reputation for first bathing everything in prayer before setting off to do the Lord's work around her beloved state.

"Sisters, we have done passing well this year. But oh, the untouched multitude of Baptist women and children in Mississippi today whose souls are crying silently yet know not for what they are crying," she wrote in her annual report to WMU members in 1917 — the year after she began the season of prayer for state missions.

The timelessness of that 1917 message cannot be minimized.

"Beloved, figures, however high-sounding they may be, are mere skeletons in the valley of

dry bones unless there is breathed into them a spirituality that makes them living, breathing realities," she wrote.

Almost 90 years later, as Mississippi Baptists reach for ever greater heights of giving to the work of the Lord — including another record-setting proposed Mississippi Cooperative Program budget for next year — we would do well to remember her exhortation to reach the lost in Mississippi.

So profound was Margaret Lackey's impact on state missions in her lifetime that the offering was named in her honor in 1935. Could she have foreseen the modern-day magnitude of that which she began so long ago?

The 2006 goal for the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering is two million dollars — money urgently needed to fund so many of our most important Mississippi Baptist ministries, such as church planting, criminal justice ministries, missions mobilization, Camp Garaywa, Central Hills Retreat, disaster relief, and literacy programs.

It seems Mississippi Baptists today believe as strongly in state missions as ever. We long ago agreed among ourselves that we should not overlook our own backyard as we seek to be a part of providing everyone in the world with the saving knowledge

of Jesus Christ. That's something Margaret Lackey understood nearly a century ago.

In 1946, long retired and 88 years of age, she penned this earnest prayer for state missions:

*This week of prayer,  
we dedicate, dear Lord,  
To those whom thou hast honored  
in thy Word,  
As choicest objects  
of thy love and care;  
As foremost subjects  
of our daily prayer.  
Some are so little, Lord,  
— and some so mild,  
Some lack sweet comfort  
of a living God.  
We've never taught them much  
of "staff and rod,"  
But all belong to thee,  
for special care.  
And hence we bring them  
on this week of prayer.*

We owe it to the faithful who came before us, and all those who will come after us, to continue building our Mississippi legacy. The Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering is an excellent way to do just that.



<b>State Evangelism</b>	<b>\$715,000</b>
Church Planting	\$400,000
Cross Cultural Ministries	\$40,000
Criminal Justice Ministries	\$50,000
College and University Outreach	\$25,000
Associational Mission Projects	\$200,000

<b>Missions Mobilization</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
Volunteer Missionary Assistance	\$500,000

<b>Retreat Ministries</b>	<b>\$670,000</b>
Camp Garaywa	\$335,000
Central Hills	\$335,000

<b>Human Needs</b>	<b>\$115,000</b>
Disaster Relief	\$50,000
Pastoral Benevolence	\$25,000
Christian Women's Job Corps	\$15,000
Literacy	\$25,000

**K**ANSAS CITY, Kan. (BP) — Due to my trade, I read a lot of biographies on the stars. Like many others, I'm fascinated by Hollywood's constellation. People like Bogey and Sinatra and John Wayne have captured the imagination of many a film watcher for many a decade, including me.

These people seem bigger than life. Some, like Errol Flynn or Marilyn Monroe, were exquisite. Others were gifted with almost everything from looks to talent to long-lasting fame.

Remember Dean Martin? At his height of coolness, the handsome crooner had conquered nightclubs, radio, TV, and movies. He occasionally wowed critics with performances in films such as *The Young Lions*, *Rio Bravo*, and *Some Came Running*.

Dean Martin's easygoing manner made it difficult to associate him with everyday problems the rest of us mere mortals must endure. The truth, however, is that even Dean Martin had his trials and tribulations — and because his career always took precedence, his family (seven kids and three ex-wives) suffered added ordeals.

In latter years, poor health took its toll on the once great-looking guy. He became frail,

## GUEST OPINION:



### Fame, fortune isn't all to life

By Phil Boatwright  
[previewonline.org](http://previewonline.org)

emaciated, like a skeleton of his former self. He suffered from pain and also from heartbreak. His son Dino, a pilot for the California Air National Guard, died in a jet crash. It is reported that Dean never recovered from that loss.

Countless movie stars lost fortunes through bad business ventures or crooked money managers. Dean lost tons of money. So did John Wayne. So did Errol Flynn. So did Jerry Lewis. These were lucky; their fame endured long enough for them to make new fortunes.

Others weren't so lucky. Comedians Abbot and Costello and bandleader Woody Herman (showbiz giants in their day) got in trouble with the Internal Revenue Service and spent their remaining years

struggling with finances.

MGM leading lady Lana Turner married seven times and had countless lovers. She searched her whole life for the right man, only to find the right man for the moment.

Marlon Brando, considered by many as the greatest actor ever, lost one child to suicide, while another went to prison for shooting his sister's abusive boyfriend. There was even question of Brando's sanity through much of his life.

Debonair David Niven, perhaps the wittiest actor of his generation, was abandoned by an unfeeling second wife during his final years.

I have yet to read a bio of an actor who didn't suffer from turmoil and mental distress at some point in his lifetime (usually at

the end), finding little if any satisfaction from worldly success.

Even the rich, good-looking, and famous are unable to escape problems. No matter how much they obtain, there's just a little more outside their reach. Conclusion: Life is about more than gaining the whole world or even the little cottage with the white picket fence. Life is a fleeting moment in time, an obstacle course filled with mountains and valleys. Each obstacle we face has to do with character development and faith.

Colossians 3:2 says, "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." James 1:2-4 says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

There are those, even in the Christian community, who associate success with fame or financial abundance. The last line in the film *Patton* refutes that theory, "All glory is fleeting."

Just ask a 16-year-old, "Who's Dean Martin?"

Boatwright's commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.



# Rainer: LifeWay must 'step out of boat'

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — It is time for LifeWay Christian Resources to "step out of the boat" and walk on "blue oceans" for the purpose of increased evangelism, biblical depth, and helping the church's relevancy in today's culture, Thom S. Rainer told trustees Sept. 11 during their semiannual meeting at the LifeWay Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center.

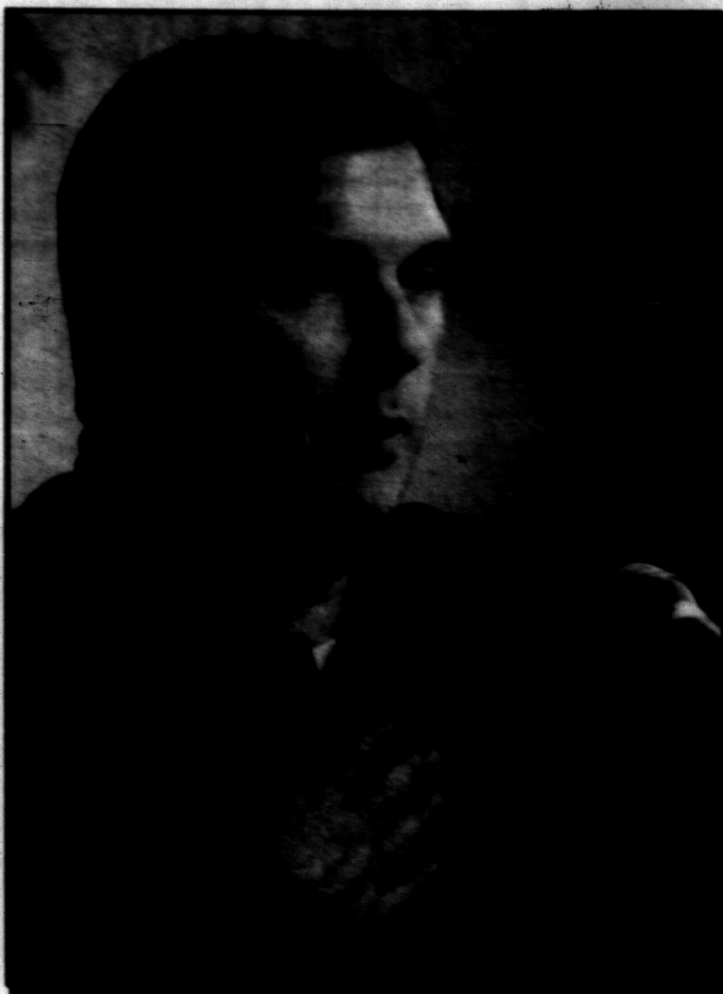
Rainer, LifeWay's president and CEO, explained that red oceans are where competitors vie for the same customers, bloodying the waters, but blue oceans are found by moving to where competitors are rendered irrelevant. The terms are the ideas of W. Chan Kim and Renée Mauborgne and described in their book, "Blue Ocean Strategies: How to Create Uncontested Market Space and Make Competition Irrelevant."

"LifeWay is a business, but it is more than a business," Rainer said, emphasizing the word "Christian" in the company's name.

"We begin on the solid rock of Jesus Christ and the authority of Scripture. When we talk about our plans, we don't talk about them in the vacuum of the business world but with the presence of Christ," Rainer said. "If we hear His voice, we've got to get out of the context of the business model and walk in faith."

Rainer cited the Matthew 14 account of Peter walking on water. Speculating as to why the other disciples did not take the same risk, Rainer said he believes there were three reasons: fear of the turbulent water, fear of the unknown and comfort of the known.

"I'd rather be Peter who got out of the boat instead of the rest," Rainer said. "Sometimes I think we as Christians live more in fear than we do in faith. The reality is LifeWay is facing some challenges. We can't know the future with the precision God does, but we can walk boldly into that future putting our confidence in Him."



Rainer

Rainer named four realities LifeWay is facing that are keeping the organization in "red oceans":

- the continued decades-old decline in dated literature (primarily Sunday School material).
- the nearly 20% decline in religious trade book industry sales that are creating a challenging market for B&H Publishing Group.
- the highly competitive Christian retailing environment.
- the fact that LifeWay's Glorieta and Ridgecrest conference centers have lost money for eight consecutive years and five consecutive years, respectively.

"Being a Christian resource provider is a tough business," Rainer said. "I don't like to talk about competition, but we've got to do some-

thing different if we are going to be an effective, viable ministry in the future."

Rainer said LifeWay will not abandon its core mission, but the Southern Baptist entity will begin to shift money in its 2007 budget — which begins Oct. 1 — for new initiatives, "making an investment in people, ministry initiatives, research, business development and technology infrastructures." That process has already begun, he said, with the reallocation of some resources over the last three months of the 2006 budget.

The initiatives are designed to position LifeWay to "leave the boat" and begin walking on the blue oceans, Rainer said, noting that several strategic initiatives already are underway that are moving the company in that direction.

The church resources division, Rainer said, is addressing the declining dated materials issues and is developing a number of "exciting opportunities" that will benefit churches. He said LifeWay Christian Stores had a "break-out year" with a proven business model that separates it from competitors and that future prospects are encouraging. And he said a new emphasis on youth and young adults at Glorieta could cause a "positive shift" in the conference centers' revenue.

In 2007, LifeWay also will add a business development and acquisitions initiative, Rainer said, to find innovative models of growth and to acquire other businesses that share a compatible theology.

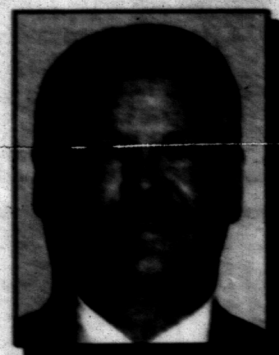
A major technology upgrade will undergird these initiatives, Rainer said, indicating that LifeWay's FPO (funds provided for operation, the bottom line for a nonprofit organization) will be lower in 2007 due to the money invested in the different projects.

"We are looking to make an investment in the long-term future of LifeWay," he said, "and to do that we've got to take some bold steps to go in that direction. We are doing this because we believe strongly in this ministry called LifeWay and the impact it can have in the lives of people and churches."

Rainer said the aggressive direction is due to an urgency he believes the company needs to have in doing all it can to promote greater evangelism, deeper biblical depth and in helping the church stay relevant in today's shifting culture.

"These are not days for the faint of heart," Rainer said. "We are going to have to risk something to get out of the boat and walk on the blue oceans, but I believe if we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus we can move boldly forward in faith."

## Dedmon joins MBCB



Dedmon

Huey Dedmon has joined the staff of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) Sunday School Department as a student ministries/church growth specialist, effective September 18. Dedmon comes to the board after a 12-year stint as minister of education and students, and then associate pastor, at First Church, Grenada. "We are joyfully excited to have a person of the caliber of Huey Dedmon to join our Sunday School Department," said MBCB Sunday School Director Kiely Young. "He brings to our department a new zeal, enthusiasm, and passion for ministering to leaders in our churches. He

has decades of experience in Mississippi Baptist churches in leading in Student Ministry and helping reach and disciple individuals for Christ. We look forward to many years of ministry together." Dedmon has also served at First Church, Bastrop, La.; McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl; First Church, Greenville; St. Bernard Church, Chalmette, La.; and Calvary Church, Alexandria, La. He graduated from Vicksburg High School and holds degrees from Hinds Community College (A.A.), Louisiana College (BA) in Pineville, and New Orleans Seminary (MRE). Dedmon and his wife, the former Deborah Alene Taylor, have been married for 28 years and have one son and one daughter. "You will never know how excited and humbled I am to be a member of the MBCB ministry team. My being here is a true testimony to the faithfulness of our God. I look forward to being a part of what God is doing and what He will do as we serve Mississippi Baptists together," Dedmon said.

## Looking back

Boyle native Larry Braswell, Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, suffers serious head injuries in a mid-morning traffic accident Sept. 18 on a sparsely traveled road near his home in Chapeco, Brazil.

Calvary Church, Pascagoula, and First Church, Mobile, join with the Baptist Brotherhood organizations of Mississippi and Alabama to support a unique, two-state revival to be conducted by lay leaders of both churches.

The last will and testament of physician J.V. May, a Baptist layman from Port Gibson, includes a provision that the diamond jewelry owned by him and his deceased wife be donated to the Mississippi Baptist Orphanage for a perpetual endowment.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

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#### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer  
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my  
sins and freedom from eternal  
death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose  
from the grave to forgive my  
sins and to restore my rela-  
tionship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus  
Christ into my life. From this  
time on, I want to live in a lov-  
ing relationship with Him. (I  
receive Christ as my Savior  
and Lord.)

"But as many as received him,  
to them he gave the right to become  
children of God; even to those who  
believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for  
Jesus Christ today, contact a  
local Baptist church for spiritu-  
al guidance.

#### I HAVE MY RIGHTS

I walked up on a heated con-  
versation between two people  
as one of them emphatically  
and emotionally said, "Well, I  
have my rights." Not knowing  
the background or even any-  
thing related to what they were  
talking about it was impossible  
to enter into the discussion.  
Both of the people acknowl-  
edged my presence as I tried to  
ease on by and let them go on  
with their discussion. Still I  
could not help but overhear as  
they continued their loud  
debate. It is always interesting  
to hear people discussing,  
debating, and demanding their  
rights. Thankfully in America  
we live in a country that is in  
large measure founded on the  
right of people to have rights.  
The very Preamble to the  
Constitution of our nation says,  
"That we hold these truths to be  
self-evident and that we are  
endowed with certain inalien-  
able rights." Immediately after  
our Constitution was shaped,  
amendments were made begin-  
ning with *The Bill of Rights*.

While I am thankful for the  
rights that we have in America  
and I am so grateful for the  
men and women who have  
given their lives in defense of  
those rights, I am aware that  
sometimes demanding and  
exercising our rights is not the  
best course of action. For those  
of us who know Christ as  
Master and Lord, our rights  
broaden into not just getting  
our way and having our rights



## Directi<sup>o</sup>s

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

exercised but even more impor-  
tantly the exercise of doing  
right, especially doing the will  
of God with a right spirit.

Sometimes it seems that  
Christians forget that we can  
exercise our rights wrongly.  
Some of the ugliest things I  
have ever heard said have  
come from the lips of people  
who were probably right, but  
being right with a wrong spirit  
accomplishes nothing. I have  
heard people be right and state  
the truth in the most unchrist-  
ian, uncaring, and ungodly  
manner. I have watched as  
people have hurt friends,  
crushed family relationships,  
and alienated everyone by, as  
they would say, "Telling it like  
it is or just speaking the unvar-  
nished truth."

The Bible says we are to,  
"Speak the truth in love" (Eph  
4:15). In love is an incredible  
qualifier that makes all the dif-  
ference in the world. You can be  
right and be wrong. In fact, you  
can even be dead wrong. Dr. Ed  
McMillan, the wise old history  
professor who is now retired  
and heads up our Mississippi  
Baptist Historical Commission,

told his students, "You can  
exercise your rights and be  
dead as a result." He would  
give his students opportunity  
to struggle with the concept  
and then he would tell them the  
following event.

Suppose that on the way to  
work this morning you came to  
a cross section where there was  
a light and looking up you saw  
clearly that the light was green.  
As it turned green you still  
slowed down because out of the  
corner of your eye you saw a  
car approaching the intersec-  
tion, and it did not appear to be  
slowing down. In fact, as you  
slowed down you watched as  
the other car zoomed through  
the intersection and never even  
braked. Suppose you would  
have exercised your right. You  
probably would be dead. The  
light was green. The law says  
that you have the right of way.  
Other people need to respect  
your rights, but you would still  
be dead. That is wisdom from  
which all of us could glean a lot  
of practical help.

It seems like daily or at least  
weekly I will hear of or be  
involved with one of our

churches where one group is  
pushing and pressing because  
they have rights. Usually on the  
other side of the issue and the  
equation is another group of  
folks who are equally vehement  
in their position that they have  
rights. They too are trying to  
figure out every way that their  
rights are protected. Folks walk  
around with a copy of the  
church's Constitution and  
Bylaws under one arm, *Roberts  
Rules of Order* under the other  
arm, and the Bible is left on the  
kitchen counter. We can do  
right, protect our rights, and  
still be wrong in what we say,  
the demeanor we display, and  
the spirit we project.

As Christians, we need to  
exercise our rights not only to  
do right but also to do right in a  
right spirit. In one sense that is  
what the cross of Jesus demon-  
strates. I think He would have  
had the right to say, "I am not  
going to die in agony on the  
cross for these people." I think  
He could have debated the  
cross, gone back to the Father,  
been loved by the Heavenly  
Council, and all of us would  
have been doomed. But Jesus  
exercised His right to do the  
right thing and even in the right  
spirit. Going to the cross for our  
sins, He lovingly said, "Father,  
forgive them for they know not  
what they do." We do have  
rights. Supremely our right is to  
do right with a right spirit.

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#### Mississippi Pastor to Host

## Northeast Cruise & Tour

Join other Southern Baptists and your Baptist  
Chaplain, Pastor Roy Meyers, visiting French  
Canada, Nova Scotia, and beautiful New England.

On June 8, 2007 fly from your closest major airport and be met by 'your man' at  
Boston's Logan International. After one night in Boston with an included city  
tour, board your 5-star cruise ship, Holland America Line's *ms Maasdam*. Your  
deluxe ship is designed to carry fewer passengers than other ships in her class.  
The *ms Maasdam* is one of the most spacious ships at sea with the finest  
service Holland is famous for. Sail to ports in Bar Harbor, Maine (a charming old  
fishing village); Halifax and Sydney in breathtaking Nova Scotia; Charlottetown,  
Prince Edward Island; cruise the Saguenay Fjord; and visit the French Canadian  
ports, on the St. Lawrence River, of Quebec City and Montreal. Let the local  
delicacies tempt you, different cultures spark your curiosity and enjoy the cooler  
climate. Start your one week historical motor coach tour visiting Montreal (with  
city tour); Kingston, NY via the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains; Hyde Park  
Manor; Philadelphia (with city tour); New York City (with city tour); and travel  
along the Atlantic and Connecticut coast, through picturesque Rhode Island,  
back to Boston. Fly home June 22. Prices start at only \$2298 (per person,  
double occupancy) including all taxes, port charges, the motor coach tour with  
daily sightseeing, 7 nights in hotels, and the 7 day deluxe cruise. Includes  
roundtrip airfare from Memphis, TN; Memphis, TN; Gulfport/Biloxi or Jackson,  
MS. Other airports may be higher or lower. Ask for details. Space is limited.  
Friends and family are welcome.

**\$100 deposits are now due!**

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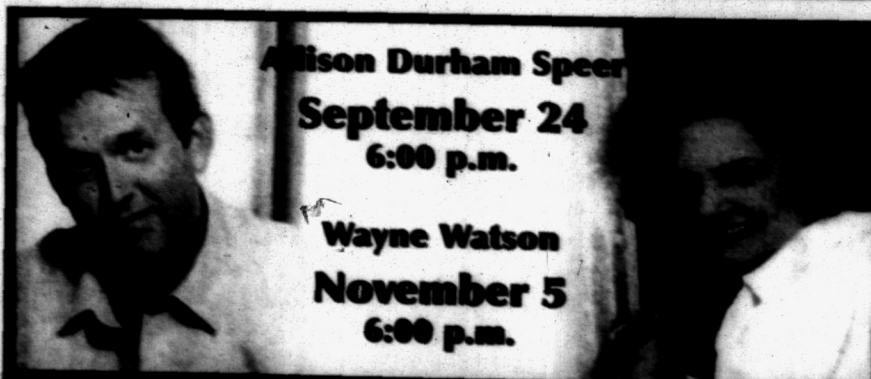
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Alison Durham Speer  
**September 24**  
6:00 p.m.

Wayne Watson  
**November 5**  
6:00 p.m.

### North Greenwood Baptist Church

FALL CONCERT SERIES

Greenwood, MS

**(662) 453-2801**

[www.ngbc.com](http://www.ngbc.com)

A Love Offering will be received



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

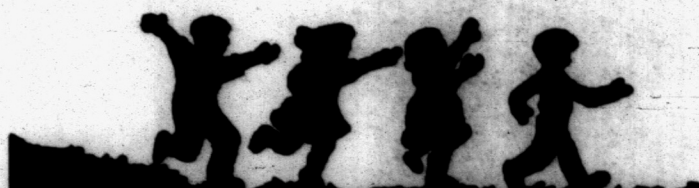
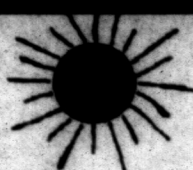
# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 21, 2006

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST 2007 Christian Education Clinics



Light Their Way With Love

**Highland Baptist Church, Meridian**  
February 3, 2007

**Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison**  
March 3, 2007

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST 2007 Christian Education Clinics Registration Form

Name of Director or Principal \_\_\_\_\_  
Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Address Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Center or School \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Association (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
Number to attend \_\_\_\_\_ at \$16 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Location Desired (Please check one.) ☐ Meridian ☐ Madison

Please mail this completed form along with the correct fee  
(\$16 each — make checks to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board) to:

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Discipleship & Family Ministry, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530

Group check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. A snack will be served between Sessions 2 and 3.  
Please keep a copy of this completed registration form for your records.

Advance registration is required and  
**NO PHONE RESERVATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED!!!**

Please mail your form and fee by January 27 for Meridian and by February 24 for Madison.

For more info:

Discipleship & Family Ministry  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Tel: 1.800.748.1651 or 601.292.3287  
E-mail: dhicks@mbcb.org

Susie McNair, clinic coordinator  
Christian Education Clinics  
Tel: 601.932.6052  
E-mail: gsmcnair@yahoo.com

## This Generation Tour "Declaring God's Glory to Every Nation"

**Oct. 11 - Harrisburg BC, Tupelo**  
**Oct. 12 - Pinelake Church, Brandon**  
**Nov. 8 - Willam Carey, Hattiesburg**



Information and ticket purchase online:  
[www.sonicflood.com](http://www.sonicflood.com) Tickets: \$10

Promoted by: International Mission Board  
Mississippi Baptist Student Union



## GROWTH SPIRAL CONFERENCE



OCTOBER 17, 2006  
FBC, OLIVE BRANCH  
9 AM - NOON



*Led by:*

David Apple

Sunday School

Teacher Training

Ministry Touches

This conference will assist you  
in planning for necessary elements of  
a balanced Sunday School such as:

Enrollment

Attendance

Prospects

Teaching Units

Ministry Touches

Space

Workers

Training

SS Leadership

Meetings

Worship

Attendance

Offerings

Baptisms

## Sunday School Growth Spiral Conference

### PREREGISTRATION FORM

Preregister prior to October 5  
and receive a 10-year history and  
a Growth Spiral diskette.

Church Name

Church Phone #

Street Address

City

Zip

Name of Person Making Reservations

Daytime Phone

# Total Persons Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of all persons attending:

Complete and return  
prior to October 5 to:

Sunday School Department  
P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205  
**Need more information? Call**  
1.800.748.1651 or 601.968.3800, ext. 374.

## 2007 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

### ALL-STATE YOUTH CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA AUDITIONS

**Tuesday, September 26, 2006**  
FBC, Summit  
4 - 7 p.m.

**Monday, October 2, 2006**  
FBC, Winona  
4 - 7 p.m.

**Saturday, October 14, 2006**  
William Carey College  
Hattiesburg  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Thursday, October 19, 2006**  
Fairview Baptist Church  
Columbus  
4 - 8 p.m.

**Saturday, October 21, 2006**  
North Oxford Baptist Church  
Oxford  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Saturday, November 4, 2006**  
FBC, Meridian  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For more info:  
Church Music  
Department -  
1-800-748-1651  
ext. 266  
or  
601-292-3266



## MINISTERS' WIVES CONFERENCE



**THE  
GARBAGE  
TRUCK**

**COMES ON TUESDAY &  
FRIDAY... OR ...  
NEUTRALIZING  
NEGATIVES**

with  
**Janie Walters**  
Madison, Miss.



More Info: Contact Kay McDonnell  
1-800-748-1651, Ext. 305, or 601-292-3305  
or E-mail: [kmcdonnell@mbcb.org](mailto:kmcdonnell@mbcb.org)



# INVEST Minutes



and learn how  
to increase giving  
in your church!

**HOST**  
**Jerry Mixon**  
Stewardship Department  
MBCB

## SEMINAR DISCUSSION

- Budget Toolbox
- Be an Encourager
- Catch the Vision

Monday, September 25  
11 a.m.  
Western Sizzlin, Batesville

Monday, September 25  
6 p.m.  
Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville

Tuesday, September 26  
11 a.m.  
Baptist Building, Jackson

Tuesday, September 26  
6 p.m.  
Mike Anderson's Seafood  
Hattiesburg

**Limited Seating  
for 50 people!**

**Call today to make reservations!**

**Susan Robinson: 601.292.3347  
or 1.800.748.1651, ext. 347**

**SPECIAL GUEST**  
**David Waganer**  
National Stewardship  
Development Association

**THOSE ATTENDING WILL RECEIVE**  
A free lunch or dinner & George Barna's book  
*How to Increase Giving in Your Church*

You are invited  
**"Prepare the Way" - Isaiah 43:16-19**  
**STATE WOMEN'S RETREAT**  
**OCTOBER 13-14, 2006**  
Camp Garaywa

*Come refresh, relax, reflect, renew and restore.*



**SPECIAL GUEST**  
**JEAN CULLEN**

**FEATURING**  
**KAY DEKALB SMITH**  
Christian singer and comedian, Nashville

### COSTS:

- **REGISTRATION FEE: \$15**
- **LODGING:** Cabins are still available on campus at Garaywa - \$8 per person (separate bath house, linens not included)

**OPTIONAL LODGING** at nearby hotels:

When making registrations you must mention  
**Mississippi Baptist Women's Retreat**

**Ramada Limited**  
201 Johnston Place  
Clinton, MS 39056  
601.925.4040

**Hampton Inn**  
493 Springridge Road  
Clinton, MS 39056  
601.925.9393

**Days Inn**  
492 Springridge Road  
Clinton, MS 39056  
601.925.5065

**Holiday Inn Exp**  
103 Johnston Place  
Clinton, MS 39056  
601.924.0064

- **MEALS:** \$8 dinner; \$6 lunch; \$7 breakfast

**Registration Deadline: Friday, October 6, 2006**  
For a brochure, E-mail [kburns@mbcb.org](mailto:kburns@mbcb.org) or call Lisa at 601-292-3317.

## CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY CONFERENCE

September 29-30 First Baptist Church, Louisville

MISSISSIPPI  
**BAPTISTS**  
CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY

### Program Personalities



**MARY BROUSSARD**  
Denham Springs, La.  
Library Ministry  
Team Leader  
Hebron Baptist Church



**BILL JONES**  
Huntsville, Ala.  
President-Owner  
Book Systems, Inc.



**HOPE FERGUSON**  
Natchitoches, La.  
Library Ministry  
Team Leader  
First Baptist Church



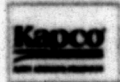
**EVA NELL HUNTER**  
Decatur, Ala.  
Library Ministry Team Leader  
Central Baptist Church  
National Specialist, CLM  
LifeWay Christian Resources  
SBC, Nashville



**PEGGY TACON**  
Mobile, Ala.  
Library Ministry Team Leader  
Dauphin Way Baptist Church



**MARTY WOODALL**  
Deatsville, Ala.  
Library Ministry Team Leader  
Shoal Creek Baptist Church



**KARY BARTH**  
McKinney, Texas, Regional Manager  
Kapco Book Protection



**Reservations are needed. (Deadline: September 22)**

**For Information: Phone: 1-800-748-1651  
or 601-292-3378 or E-mail: [jchen@mbcb.org](mailto:jchen@mbcb.org)**



Pray this day for...

September 22 - October 5, 2006

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

*"Pray for those who are heartily concerned for the glory of God, and the welfare of the church and the souls of men will mourn for the sins of others as well as for their own."*

*Matthew Henry*

For: (1) Discipleship Rally (D&FM); (2) Pray for: Muslim-background believers who are suffering today because of their decision to follow Christ; their faith to grow and their roots to sink deeper into Christ; their lives to reflect the Savior's love, patience and moral purity; their access to God's Word and believers.

For: (1) Church Related Vocations (CRV) Banquet, William Carey College, Hattiesburg; 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. (P/LD); (2) David Matheson is the army chaplain for the combat team that deployed overseas in June. Please pray for God's protection and for a fruitful ministry for the seven chaplains in the brigade.

Pray for Christians worldwide who are being persecuted for their faith. Pray that they will have courage and not deny Christ. Pray that in Christ's strength and by His example they will be able to love their enemies and through that love their enemies will see the difference and be drawn to Christ as Lord.

For: (1) September 27 - October 1, WMU National Training & "Weekender", Ridgecrest, N.C. (WMU); (2) Debbie Wohlschlag, a missionary, is a resort missionary asking prayer for wisdom on how to reach a changing community for Christ.

For: (1) CRV Banquet, Blue Mountain College (P/LD); (2) After four months of trying circumstances, nearly all the imprisoned national evangelists have been released. However, one dear sister remains in prison. YH is 43 years old and has a family. She was arrested for visiting the sick, praying for them, and then sharing the gospel.

For: (1) State Church Library Ministry Conference, FBC, Louisville (CS); (2) Special Ministries Retreat, Camp Garaywa, 29th - 30th (SS); (3) Piano/Organ/Keyboard Conference, FBC, Jackson, 29th - 30th (P/M); (4) State College Student Conference, TBA, 29th - 30th (CLGM).

The Eastern Metropolitan Evangelism team in Johannesburg, South Africa writes: "Continue to pray for us, as we are the missionary to the missionary. Our many support roles here. We ask you to pray for wisdom, discernment, love and God's presence to be felt by those to whom we minister."

Bill is a missionary serving in the Appalachia area of West Virginia. Pray for the health and safety of Bill and the mission volunteers as they travel during this time. Pray for church planters and laborers to reach the 4.3 million unchurched people.

Paul's words inspired by the Holy Spirit, describe the volunteers who have come to work along the U.S.- Mexico border. Many Mexican nationals have heard the Good News through volunteers and have expressed a desire to know Christ in a more personal way. Volunteers are such an encouragement to the national brothers.

There are five oases in the desert where Bedouin of Northern Africa live. As these oases offer refreshment from harsh desert life and water to quench the thirst of travelers, pray that the spiritual thirst of the Bedouin will be quenched by the living water that Christ offers. Pray that they will hear about the "eternal oasis" awaiting them in Jesus Christ.

For: (1) Professional Certification & Skills Shops for Ministry Assistants Conference, Camp Garaywa (P/LD); (2) Please pray for I. who lives in the city of Treinta y Tres, Uruguay, as she works with the deaf there. Also intercede for her as she trains others in the city of Melo in knowing how to work with the deaf.

For: (1) Baptist Building STAFF AT HOME DAYS; (2) Campers on Mission, TBA, 4th - 7th (MM); (3) A Sese believer of Guinea is sharing his faith and holding Bible studies in three different villages. Ask for health and safety for him and his family. Lift up those who are studying with him, asking that they will be able to hear and understand the truth, and have the courage to follow Jesus.

Pray for the many men and women who are training for ministry in pastors' schools and seminaries in West Africa. Pray for their courage to continue on in preparation for the work He has called them to do. Intercede for them as they take this step of faith, asking God to provide all of the resources they need as they continue with their schooling.

# Speaker Power

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STEVE WILLIAMS

Special Mississippi Edition  
To support  
Youth Speakers Tournament



The Mississippi Edition of **SPEAKER POWER** by Steve Williams is a resource to support Youth Speakers Tournament. Discipleship and Family Ministry would like to send you a complimentary copy of this new book.

Please mail the form below to:  
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(E-mail orders also accepted at [dbrashier@mbcb.org](mailto:dbrashier@mbcb.org))

Check below:

- ☐ Please send me a copy of the Mississippi Edition of **SpeakerPower**.
- ☐ Please send my church \_\_\_\_\_ [number needed] copies of this year's Youth Speakers Tournament brochure.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Association: \_\_\_\_\_

Also check below:

- ☐ Send a representative to talk to me about Speakers Tournament.
- ☐ We want to host a Speakers Tournament Clinic for our church and association.

# HOUSE TOPS



**Belden Church, Belden:** Homecoming, Sept. 24; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., followed by meal.

**Corinth Church, Carthage:** Homecoming, Oct. 8; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Jerry Henderson, Mobile, speaker; John Sharp, pastor.

**County Line Church, Ovett:** Revival, Oct. 1-4; Malcom Ellis, speaker; Southern Psalm, music; for more information, visit [www.countylinebc.com](http://www.countylinebc.com).

**Cross Roads Church, Pelahatchie:** Homecoming and 90th anniversary, Oct. 1; former pastors and music leaders in morning worship, followed by covered dish lunch; time of remembrance, 2 p.m.

**First Church, Nettleton:** Homecoming, Oct. 8; worship, 10 a.m., followed by pot luck lunch and afternoon singing; Bendon Ginn, speaker; Charlie Farrar, music.

**Franklin Creek Church, Moss Point:** Revival, Oct. 5-7; 7 p.m. nightly; Terry Long, speaker; special music nightly.

**Friendship Church, Aberdeen:** Homecoming, Sept. 24; worship, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; O.E. Langner, speaker; John Bailey, Hot Springs, Ark., music; Todd Bowen, pastor.

**Friendship Church, Columbus:** 50th anniversary, Oct. 29; fellowship time, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by meal. James L. Edwards, speaker; Heartmen Quartet, music.

**Harrisville Church, Harrisville:** Homecoming, Oct. 8; worship, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and afternoon singing; Donnie South, speaker; Steve Walker, music; David Sartin, pastor.

**Hope Church, Philadelphia:** Homecoming, Sept. 24; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Doug Broom, speaker; William Crenshaw, music; Dennis Duvall, pastor.

**Macedonia Church, Brookhaven:** Homecoming, Oct. 1; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Sonny Adkins, speaker; Angela and Mike Britt, music.

**Magnolia Church, Laurel:** Revival, Sept. 24-27; Sun., worship, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Richie Davis, Meridian, speaker; Currie Page, Soso, music.

**Main Street Church, Mendenhall:** Revival, Sept. 24-27; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Brent

Barker, Magee, speaker; Ed Meadows and Good H2O, Magee, music.

**New Hope Church, Foxworth:** Homecoming, Oct. 1; worship, 11 a.m., followed by a covered dish lunch; concert, 6:30 p.m.; special offering to go toward a projector and screen; high attendance goal of 250 in Sunday School. Jim Futral, speaker; Gary Hodges, James Bell, John Bell, and Traci Bell, music.

**Oakvale Church, Lawrence County:** Centennial Celebration and Revival, Oct. 14-18; Sat., fish fry, 5 p.m.; singing, 6 p.m.; Sun., worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal and Singing Mississippians, 2 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Shane Freeman, speaker.

**Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg:** Revival, Sept. 24-27; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Wed. night supper, 5:30 p.m.; Billy Smith, speaker; Hugh Plunkett, music.

**Rocky Point Church, Leake Association:** Homecoming, Sept. 24; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Marshall Lum, pastor.

**Roxie Church, Roxie:** Revival, Oct. 8-11; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds and 2 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Houston, Bart Houston, Marvin Howard, Tony Mullins, and Webb Armstrong, speakers; Kaye Scott, music; Matt Armstrong, pastor.

**Shelton Church, Moselle:** 99th homecoming, Oct. 8; worship, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish dinner; Alan Woodward, speaker; Eric Benson, music.

**Sunrise Church, Leake County:** Homecoming, Sept. 24; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Ken Harrison, speaker.

**Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba:** Homecoming, Sept. 24, with an honoring of our military; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish meal; Kristian and Katryn Dambrino, music; other program personalities include a color guard from the 631 First Artillery Brigade and Gray Harrison, Jr., retired major general and former adjutant general of Mississippi; Donnie Stewart, pastor.

**West Salem Church, Richton:** Revival, Sept. 24-27; Sun., worship, 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, speaker; Mark King, music and pastor.

1. The public is invited to attend a recital on Oct. 17, at 7:30 p.m., for the rededication of the Moller pipe organ located in Mississippi College's historic Provine Chapel. The recital will highlight new features such as a complete MIDI interface, 38 ranks of pipes, as well as showcase various aspects of what a pipe organ does in concert and worship services. For more information, please contact the Mississippi College Department of Music, (601) 925-3440.

2. Donna Wheeler, retired alumni director at William Carey University, will sign copies of the pictorial history "William Carey College: The First 100 Years," Sept. 28 at 11:30 a.m. in the Lucile Parker Gallery on the Hattiesburg campus. The history contains more than 150 photographs and descriptions from the university's days as South Mississippi College, Mississippi Woman's College and William Carey College.

## STATE CHANGES



1. Yarborough and wife

1. **Pearlhaven Church, Brookhaven,** recently called Anthony Yarborough as pastor. Shown are Yarborough and Karen Yarborough.

2. **First Church, Winona,** has called Phillip Dancy as pastor. He was minister of church and community development at Longview Heights Church, Olive Branch. He is a graduate of

2. Dancy

the University of Memphis and Mid-America Seminary. He and his wife Amanda come with their son, Andrew.

3. **Griffith Memorial Church, Byram,** has called Paul Griffin Jones as pastor effective Sept. 1. Jones comes from Beulah Memorial Church, Molton. He holds degrees from Baylor University and Southwestern Seminary, and comes to the church with his wife, the former Sandra Lee Pope, Longview, Tex.



3. Jones

4. **Geoffrey Doss Estep,** minister of music, Temple Church, Myrtle, was appointed Sept. 13 by the International Mission Board to serve as an evangelist and church planter in South America.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Centennial Celebration, Louin Church, Louin

1. **Louin Church, Louin,** is celebrating its centennial the weekend of Oct. 1, with services Saturday evening, Sunday morning, plus dinner on the grounds. Shown are several of the church members.

2. **Freeny Church, Carthage,** recently held its GA recognition. Shown are Hayly Harrell, Victoria Sprayberry, Ashten Collier, Savannah Alford, and leader Dianne Mitchell.



2. GA Recognition, Freeny Church, Carthage

MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS



## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
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NQFLFWILF VG TFITUF  
MQBUU OHIK VG HBVF;  
NQFLFWILF NQFC  
MQBUU OHIK RH NQBN  
EBG NQBN R BV QF  
NQBN EINQ MTFBO;  
CFQUIE, RN RM R.  
RMBRBQ WRWNG-NKI: MRJ

H = N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Genesis Twenty-Two: Eight.



1. Youth Bible Drillers, Mt. Zion Church, Columbus

1. Mt. Zion Church, Columbus, recognizes its Bible drillers. Top row, Kacie Hawkins and Ashley Silas; middle row, Kimberly Hollis and Ally Pfeiffer; and bottom, Emily Sullivan.
2. The girls, age 12 - 18, of Lake Como Church, Bay Springs, took part in a recent Daughters of the King weekend dealing with biblical principles of dress, mannerisms, and spiritual etiquette. Shown are the participants.
3. Murphy Creek Church, Louisville, ordained Jonathan Peeples to the gospel ministry Sept. 10, and is going to Oak Grove



2. Daughters of the Kind Weekend, Lake Como Church, Bay Springs

## Learn about the joys of International adoption!

Saturday, September 30, 2006 • 10:00 a.m.  
Calvary Baptist Church in Oxford, MS  
Saturday, October 21, 2006 • 10:00 a.m.  
UMC Student Union in Jackson, MS



Please join Bethany of Mississippi for a free information meeting. Register by calling 601.366.4282 or 1.800.331.5876.

www.bethany.org 3089

Church, Noxapater, as pastor. Shown are Peeples and Walter Simmons, pastor.

4. Red Creek Union Church, Vancleave, recently held an old fashioned baptism service at Red Creek. Sixteen were baptized, and afterwards the congregation went back to the church for lunch and fellowship. Shown are the candidates with pastor Jamie Chapman.
5. First Church, Newton, will host Hearts in Harmony tour, featuring Poet Voices and Embrace, Sept. 24, 7 p.m. Free admission, but a love offering will be received. Doors open 6:15 p.m.
6. First Church, Waynesboro, will celebrate its 200th anniversary Sept. 23-Oct. 1.

Bicentennial fair Sept. 23 with historical activities, exhibits, children's games, and the unveiling of a historical marker set by the Mississippi Department of Archives. Golf tournament, Sept. 29. Sunday, special service followed by covered dish meal.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS



3. Peeples ordained to ministry, Murphy Creek Church, Louisville



4. Old-fashioned Baptism, Red Creek Union Church, Vancleave

### MS POSITIONS

**GOODWATER BAPTIST CHURCH** is accepting resumes for a part-time Minister of Youth position and part-time Paid Nursery Worker position, through October 19, 2006. Send resumes to: 1313 Goodwater Road N.W., Magee, MS 39111.

**BRANDON BAPTIST CHURCH** NEEDS PAID CHILDCARE WORKERS for Sunday a.m./p.m., Wednesday nights and special events. Also, a man to help set up tables on an as needed basis. Call the church for an application at (601) 824-1781.

**IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN HATTIESBURG, MISS.**, is seeking a minister of students to administer and develop all facets of ministry for students between the ages of 2 and 18. For more information, please contact personnel committee, Immanuel Baptist Church, 510 Westerby Rd., Hattiesburg, MS 39402. Or email resumes to pastor-david@immanuel-baptist.com.

**UNION WEST BAPTIST CHURCH, LAFAYETTE COUNTY** is seeking a ministe of music. Please send resume to Union West Baptist Church, 794 CR Oxford, Miss. 38655, attn: Bro Derek Starnes or call (662) 234-1338.

**WANTED: OLD NURSERY TEACHING PICTURES FROM 1950S** (for ministry project), burton.b@sbcglobal.net or call (214) 352-8406.

**INTERESTED IN REVIVAL?** Five free booklets in quantity are available to leaders of ministries, Sunday school, and home groups. Visit [www.keytorevival.org](http://www.keytorevival.org) or write: Alliance for Christian Fellowship, Int., P.O. Box 747, Burnet, TX 78611.

**FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE** for the self employed. Call (800) 541-8196. Provided by Mega Insurance, [www.christurner-ins.com](http://www.christurner-ins.com).

**AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS, WWW.GULFSHORESCONDOS.COM.** All size units available. FALL SPECIAL, 2 night weekend \$140, 4 weeknights \$200. Efficiency unit (2 adults 2 kids), good 9/6 thru 10/31, (205) 556-0368 or (205) 556-1524.

**FOR SALE — HAMMOND 124-XL ORGAN**, walnut cabinet, more info (662) 837-9038.

**DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES.** Baptist murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, kringlas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, (800) 728-8291.

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## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Pass the Baton

Joshua 24:14-28, 31

By Arthur Story

We've all probably heard it a hundred times. The most critical part of a relay race is passing the baton. Regardless of the individual athletes' abilities, when they run as a team, the passing of the baton is the primary element. The passing of the baton may seem insignificant to some because of the brief amount of time it takes in a race, but it has been the determining factor in numerous races.

In Joshua 1 we witnessed the passing of the leadership baton from Moses to Joshua. Moses wasn't perfect but he ran a good race and made a solid baton pass to Joshua. Like Moses, Joshua also ran well but not perfectly. In Joshua 24 we see Joshua's effort to make a good pass of the baton to prepare the people for new leadership.

Joshua starts with a review of the people's history (verses 1-13). In recounting the work and words of God, Joshua walked the people through their dependence on God even through his own time of leadership. A lesser leader might have been tempted to find some way to exalt himself when talking about what God had done during his watch as leader, but not Joshua. He focused the people totally on God's work and faithfulness to them.

After recounting their history, Joshua called on the people to remember their God and devote themselves wholeheartedly to Him. He challenged them to rid themselves of anything that would hinder their commitment to God (verse 14). Before the people could contemplate this commitment Joshua verbalized

Story

his own commitment to God (verse 15). Had Joshua's life been filled with inconsistencies this action wouldn't have been nearly as powerful. In continuing on in his call to the people, Joshua reminded the people that God set a high standard for his people (verse 19-20). A lesser leader might have been tempted to downplay the need for complete devotion to God. Not Joshua! He laid out for the people a clear understanding of the God's holiness and His expectation that His people would be faithful to Him.

Joshua didn't just stop when the people responded that they would fully devote themselves to following God. He immediately laid before them the need to take action. Joshua challenged them to get rid of the foreign gods in your midst and offer their hearts to God in order to unreservedly follow Him (verse 23). This is a significant challenge to us today. In a world focused on individual convenience and

comfort, we need to purge from our own lives those things that hinder our full devotion to God.

Joshua had reviewed the history of God's people and His faithfulness to them. He had instructed them of their need to completely devote themselves to God and therefore to remove all the foreign gods from their midst that would hinder their commitment to God. After the people affirmed their devotion to God and their willingness to serve Him alone, Joshua led the people in a renewal of their covenant with God (verse 25-27).

This renewal of the covenant can be likened to people that renew their wedding vows. Their original vows haven't changed. They are just stating them again. The Covenant between the people and God hadn't changed. They were just reaffirming it. Joshua recorded their renewed commitment and set up a monument as a witness to the people's recommitment that day. Similarly, couples renewing their wedding vows will often have a certificate made to commemorate the event.

The events of the day had

been meaningful. The people had recounted their history, attested their willingness to remove all that would hinder their relationship with God, and reaffirmed their commitment to God. Their hearts had no doubt been stirred. This was no time to linger. This was the time to depart and take action (verse 28). Some needed to remove foreign gods from their homes. Others needed to fully surrender themselves to God. Still others needed to reflect on the events of the day.

This final action on the part of the people is a reminder for us today. No matter how great a time of corporate worship we may have, each of us needs to follow God's leadership and take action. Their time together had highlighted their need to do certain things. In like fashion, our times of corporate worship today do the same.

Joshua took the necessary steps to prepare the people to lead. If we exercise wise leadership, as Joshua did, we will prepare others to lead.

Story is Minister of Education, First Church, Louisville.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Be Obedient

Hebrews 3:16-4:13

By Cyndi Grace

*When we walk with the Lord  
in the light of His Word,  
What a glory He sheds on our way!  
While we do His good will,  
He abides with us still,  
And with all who will trust  
and obey. — John Sammis*

What came to your mind as you read the title of today's lesson? Be honest because your reaction to the word "obedience" is crucial to how you respond to God and live out your Christian life. In Sunday school a fellow member said she had been made to feel guilty when she missed church. She felt that obedience to God was a noose keeping her from enjoying life. While we do not want to become legalists in our approach to God, neither

should we misunderstand the concept of obedience to God's precepts in our lives.

The Hebrew children did not trust God and were not able to enter the Promised Land. The writer called this disobedience...rebellion against God. We would never do that or would we? Beth Moore in her book, *Believing God*, asks the question, "Do you believe in God or do you believe God?" Don't pass this off as a simple question because where we go in our Christian life hinges on this very question; it must be a deep-down in the heart belief. If you really believe God wants the best for you, are you willing to do what God says in order to receive it? Trust AND obey! I struggle with allowing God to have control over my circum-



Grace

stances. I like control. I like to know where I am going but I have learned that I do not rest well in rebellion. Do you?

Our scripture passage uses the word rest eleven times. The definition of rest means "a cessation of labor" or "stopping, causing to rest." The writer reminded them as Christians this rest was a benefit of their salvation and they were ignoring it because of a lack of trust. There are two words used for rest in the original language. In verses 3:11-4:8 rest referred to the Promised Land but in verse 9 we see a shift to the Sabbath rest and the concept of "ceasing to strive!" Both of these verb forms are in present tense, meaning a continual resting...not a one time deal! The point was that we must continually trust and obey for only a continual submission to God's will in our life will result in His rest. Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,

for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:29

God's laws are not intended to lay guilt on us; they are for our good. God told Joshua, "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." (Joshua 1:8) God wants us to follow His rules so we can be successful, prosperous but most of all reside in His rest! When we are obedient to God, trusting Him with our lives, we have a rest the world cannot understand. Paul said, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7

How can we actually accomplish this? Hebrews 4:14-16 tells us that our High Priest, Jesus, will help us when the temptations come. Jesus understands our every weakness and will help when we call. The words, "hold fast" in

verse 14 means to seize this truth with power...like our lives depend upon it! Come boldly to His throne and ask! God is faithful! He is trustworthy! He is good but He also requires our obedience.

Are you at rest today? I didn't ask if everything in your life was great but if you were at rest. Are you striving today? Hebrews' declaration to us is to cease our striving and begin trusting. Be reminded of the priests who obeyed by faith and put their feet in the Jordan River; they at once saw the only obstacle hindering their passage into the Promised Land miraculously separate. (Joshua 1:15-17) We can be assured the words "Be Obedient" are not words of bondage but words of freedom and rest.

*Trust and obey,  
For there's no other way  
To be happy with Jesus,  
But to trust and obey.*

Grace is a women's conference speaker and women's ministry director at Highland Church, Vicksburg.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

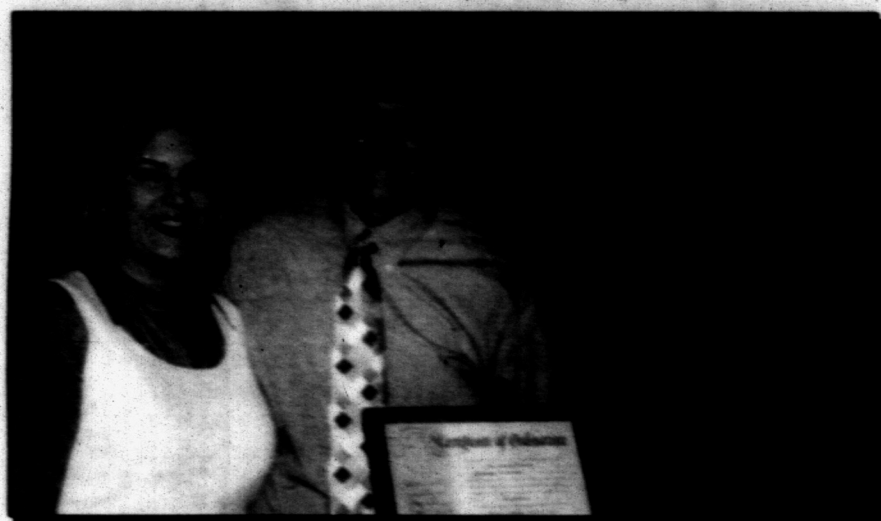
Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Lott licensed to the ministry, Union Church, Raleigh



2. Seaton ordained to the ministry, First Church, Quitman



3. Boyd ordained as deacon, Calvary Church, Pascagoula



4. Disaster Relief, Fernwood Church, Fernwood

1. Union Church, Raleigh, licensed Al Lott to the gospel ministry Aug. 6. Shown are pastor David Hays, Lott, and Teresa Lott.

2. First Church, Quitman, ordained Ryan Seaton to the ministry Sept. 10. Shown are Ginger Seaton, Seaton, and pastor Gene Neal.

3. Calvary Church, Pascagoula, recently ordained Jerry Boyd as deacon. Shown are pastor Johnny Beaver, Boyd, and Gaye Dawn Boyd.

4. Pastor J. Frank Smith and Jimmy McDaniel, of Fernwood Church, Fernwood, are presented a disaster relief check from funds raised by the church to Dean Smith, pastor of Freedom Christian Fellowship, Pascagoula, after the church was destroyed by Katrina. Shown are McDaniel, Dean Smith, and J. Frank Smith.

5. North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton, recognizes its RAs and GAs. GAs shown are, front row, Addy Westmoreland, Allie Dunn, Katie Holman, and Kayla Davis; back row, Molly Davis and Maggie Lloyd. RAs shown are, front row, Christopher Langley, Dallan Dunn, Payton Neal, and Benjamin Myers; back row, Wesley Davis and Timothy Langley.

6. Union Church, Caesar, had ten of its members surrender to ministry in the last year, with eight surrendering to preach, one to the music ministry, and one to children's ministry. Shown, front, are Robin Craft, Kurt Jarrell, and Kevin Neary; back, Jeff Eastridge, Billy Spence, Barque Cutrer, and AMD Carl Myers.

7. The Women on Mission group of Bethel Church, Lawrence Association, hosted Widows Friends, featuring handmade items made by widows in Bangladesh to support their families. Shown are Allene Langley, Ruth Spicer, Cecile Stanback, Jolynn Thurman, Donna Sandifer, Jennifer King, Carolyn Hennington, and Madeleine Rayborn.

8. First Church, Eupora, is hosting Gold City Quartet Sept. 23, 7 p.m., with the Holcomb Sisters opening for them at 6:30 p.m. A love offering will be taken.

9. Temple Church, Petal, is sponsoring a fall festival Oct. 21. Food, fun, and fellowship 10 a.m.; concert with Heirline, 7 p.m.



5. GA Recognition, North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton



5. RA Recognition, North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton



6. Ten surrender to ministry, Union Church, Caesar



7. Women on Mission group, Bethel Church, Lawrence Assoc.

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